

CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal, the 5 method comprising the steps of:

allocating a weighting to the communication link;

determining if the communication link has a higher weighting than an already existing old communication link to the destination communication terminal;

interrupting the old communication link and setting up the

10 communication link from the communication terminal to the destination communication terminal if the communication link has a higher weighting than the old communication link; and

15 changing the weighting, while the communication link is being set up, via the communication network if the communication link needs to be set up with a different priority with respect to the allocated weighting, the different priority being one of a higher priority and a lower priority.

2. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as 20 claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

using a destination address for the communication link to detect whether the communication link needs to be set up with the different priority.

25 3. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

increasing the weighting of the communication link if the communication link needs to be set up with a higher priority.

4. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

reducing the weighting of the communication link if the communication link needs to be set up with a lower priority.

5. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the destination address appears in a number plan for the communication network.

6. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the weighting of the communication link is increased if the communication link is detected to be an emergency call.

7. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the communication network is an Intelligent Network, and an intelligent node of the Intelligent Network detects whether the communication link needs to be set up with a different priority.

8. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the communication network is an Intelligent Network, and the weighting is changed by an intelligent node of the Intelligent Network.

9. A method for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 8, the method further comprising the step of:

5 notifying the change to the weighting by the intelligent node to a service switching point of the Intelligent Network using an extended INAP message.

10. A system for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal, wherein the communication link is allocated a weighting, and an already existing old 10 communication link to the destination communication terminal is interrupted and the communication link from the communication terminal to the destination communication terminal is set up if the communication link has a higher weighting than the old communication link, the system comprising a detection part for detecting whether the communication link needs to be set up with a different priority with 15 respect to the allocated weighting, the different priority being one of a higher priority and a lower priority, and further comprising a changing part for changing the weighting of the communication link if the communication needs to be set up with the different priority.

20 11. A system for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the detection part detects from a destination address for the communication link whether the communication link needs to be set up with the different priority.

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12. A system for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the communication network is an Intelligent Network, and the detection part includes an intelligent node of the Intelligent Network.

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13. A system for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as

claimed in Claim 10, wherein the communication network is an Intelligent Network, and the changing part includes an intelligent node of the Intelligent Network.

14. A system for setting up a communication link in a communication network from a communication terminal to a destination communication terminal as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the changing part includes a service switching point of the communication network.